

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 SCS-03 INRE-00  
SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-04  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 EB-08 IO-13  
/086 W

-----171139Z 076835 /17

O 170955Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5497

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, MZ

SUBJECT: GPRM TO ASK FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE

1. SUMMARY: INTERMITTENTLY DURING PAST TWO WEEKS TWO  
TROPICAL STORMS HAVE BATTERED MOZAMBICAN COAST FROM  
MAPUTO TO BEIRA. LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE HAS BEEN GREAT AND  
DAMAGE TO ANIMALS, CROPS AND HOMES EXTENSVE. GPRM PLAN  
TO ASK UN AND MEMBER NATIONS FOR EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF  
ASSISTANCE POSSIBLY WITHIN NEXT TWO DAYS.  
END SUMMARY

2. DURING PAST TWO WEEKS SOUTHERN PART OF MOZAMBIQUE  
RAINS FROM TWO CYCLONIC STORMS. AREA MOST EFFECTED  
HAS BEEN AROUND XAI-XAI (EX-JOAO BELO), SITUATED  
NEAR MOUTH OF LIMPOPO RIVER, APPROIMATELY 210  
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KILOMETERS NORTH OF MAPUTO.

TO DATE GPRM OFFICIALS INDICATE 300 PEOPLE HAVE  
DIED, OVER 2,500 HAVE BEEN LEFT HOMELESS, DOZENS  
OF VILLAGES ALONG LOWER LENGTH OF LIMPOPO HAVE BEEN  
FLOODED OR COMPLETELY WASHED AWAY, THOUSANDS OF FARM  
ANIMALS HAVE PERISHED AND MANY FOOD CROPS HAVE BEEN  
DESTROYED. PRESS REPORTS THAT TOWN OF XAI-XAI IS UNDER

SIX FEET OF WATER AND THAT 13 KILOMETER SECTION OF MAIN ROAD BETWEEN MAPUTO AND BEIRA, PLUS TWO SMALL BRIDGES, HAVE BEEN WASHED OUT. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAY FLOOD WATERS ALONG LIMPOPO HAVE NOT CRESTED AND LOSS OF LIFE AND DAMAGES COULD RISE FURTHER.

3. IN MAPUTO AREA, FLOODING AND DAMAGE HAS NOT BEEN AS BAD. AFRICAN SUBURBS AROUND TOWN HAVE BEEN UNDER WATER FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND MAIN ROAD BETWEEN MAPUTO AND SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAZILAND WAS IMPASSABLE FOR A WEEK. RAILWAY LINK TO SWAZILAND WAS ALSO REPORTED OUT. WATER FILTRATION PLANT WAS FLOODED, (AND POSSIBLY DAMAGED), CONTAMINATING CITY'S DRINKING WATER.

4. DURING FEBRUARY 16 MEETING WITH VISITING AF/S ECONOMIC OFFICER EATON AND EMBOFFS, JOAO BAPTISTA COSME, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT, ASSESSED FLOOD AND STORM DAMAGES AS "VERY SERIOUS" AND SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO FLY OVER DIVASTATED AREAS LATER IN DAY WITH DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND UNDP RES REP. COSME SAID THAT AFTER TRIP AND FURTHER CONSULATION WITH UN OFFICIALS GPRM PLANNED TO ISSUE APPEAL THROUGH UN TO WORLD COMMUNITY TO ASSIST MOZAMBIQUE TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY EXTENSIVE FLOODING. COSME SAID REQUEST WOULD PROBABLY BE MADE WITHIN TWO OR THREE DAYS.

5. COMMENT: A NUMBER OF LONGTIME PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS HAVE TOLD US THAT FLOODING OF LIMPOPO AND GREAT LOSS OF LIFE IS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORST THEY CAN REMEMBER. EMBASSY PLANS TO CONSULT WITH UN OFFICIALS AND KEEP CLOSELY APPRISED OF SITUATION. EMBASSY WILL SUBMITATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS IF APPROPRIATE.  
DE PREE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CROP DESTRUCTION, DISASTER RELIEF, STORMS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** GPRM TO ASK FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE  
**TAGS:** SWEL, MZ, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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